

# CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

APRIL '83

Nº 78



President.	Mr G. Broadway	72 2513
Hon. Sec.	Mrs S. Bruton	72 3050
Treasurer	Mr F. Meyer	72 1958
Editor.	Mrs R. Mills	-

## Bird List for the excursion to Welshmans Reef 19/3/'83

### First stop (Gower School area)

Forest Bronzewing	Hooded Robin
Superb Blue Wren	Fuscous Honeyeater
Jacky Winter	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
Whitebacked Magpie	Crested Bellbird (heard)
Female Golden Whistler	

### Second stop (Seers Road area)

Raven	Willy Wagtail
Whistling Kite	Brown Falcon
Peaceful Dove	Galah

### Welshmans Reef arm of /Cairn Curran

Swan	White Ibis
Spur-winged Plover	Striated Pardelotte (heard)
Mountain Duck	Black Duck
Grey Teal	Coot
Little Black Cormorant	Little Pied Cormorant
Black Cormorant	Large Egret
Silver Gull	Crested Grebe
Hoary Headed Grebe	Musk Duck
Red Rumped Parrots	

From G. Broadway



## DROUGHT AFFECTED PLANTS

EP

This article gives some observations on the effect of the drought, on plants in Kalimna and in the Wattle Flat Forest.

The affects are variable. Sometimes a plant can be found growing well in a patch where all similar species are dead. Sometimes an area of bush can be badly affected, but a patch only a few hundred metres away will be green and healthy.

In this article, "dead" means that all leaves are dead and the plant is apparently lifeless.

Acacia genistifolia (Spreading wattle) About 3/4 of the plants dead. In rocky elevated positions there is almost 100% mortality

Acacia pycnantha (Golden wattle) Some yellowed, but mostly green; many now have dull leaves. (A few have apparently died recently, but most of the dead plants were killed by frost)

Acacia acinacea (Gold-dust wattle) Apparently not affected. Dead plants are quite rare.

Acacia armata (Hedge wattle) Some leaves lost; some are dead but others stand out with dark green leaves.

Acacia aspera Over 50% mortality. Those alive are yellowed and have lost leaves.

Acacia baileyana (Cootamundra wattle) A few are dead, but most appear to be coping very well.

Eucalyptus species Red Stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*) is worst affected, and makes up the majority of dead trees. Young plants are particularly affected. Long-leaf box (*E. gonicalyx*) is also affected and many of these trees have died. In a few areas, the long-leaf box appear to be more susceptible than the stringybarks. In the higher parts of Kalimna, one or two Grey box (*E. microcarpa*) have died and several Red box (*E. polyanthemos*) have died or have many dead leaves. However, these last two, and other eucalypts generally seem to be coping very well. I have not noted any Yellow box or Yellow gum that have been affected.

Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria) Apparently not affected.

Brachyloma daphnoides (Daphne heath) Very badly affected. The plants have yellowed -sometimes bright yellow - leaves.

Cassinia arcuata (Coffee bush). Badly affected in the drier areas. They have lost leaves and have not flowered. Many are dead in the drier areas. In low lying areas they are healthy and in flower.

Acrotriche serrulata (Honey-pots) Widespread and almost complete mortality. Only one live (and yellow-brown) specimen was seen.



Pimelia linifolia (Slender Riceflower) Seldom noticed; those seen had lost almost all leaves.

Prostanthera denticulata (Mint bush). Most seemed to be surviving.

Lomandra filiformis (Wattle mat-rush). Leaves yellowed.

Dianella revoluta (Flax lily) All clumps had some green leaves. Often the outer leaves were dead, and sometimes only a few live leaves in the middle of the clump could be seen.

Tetratheca ciliata (Pink bells) Apparently the worst affected of all. No live plants were noted; many dead plants were noted.

Gompholobium huegelii (Karella) Plants seen were green and healthy.

Dillwynia sericea (parrot pea) Many plants dead or yellow; a few seemed healthy.

Helichrysum obcordatum (Grey everlasting). Many dead; those alive are yellowed and/or have lost leaves.

Astroloma humifusum (Cranberry Heath). Varied from fairly healthy to yellowed or dead leaves.

Exocarpus (Native cherry) Often yellowed, but perhaps no more than is usual. No dead specimens were noted.

Hakea sericea (Needlewood) About half are dead. Some of those alive look to be very healthy. (In Kaweka there is almost 100% mortality)

Grevillea alpina (Cat's claws). Widespread mortality. Over half would be dead. Many others have shrivelled leaves.

Eriostemon verrucosus (Wax) Some are dead; most however have lost leaves and the leaves remaining are kahki-yellow.

Daviesia ulicifolia Widespread mortality. Perhaps over 3/4 are dead.

Hibbertia exutiaces (Guinea flower) Little affected.

Ulex europeus (Gorse) Many are dead. Unfortunately, a large number still have some green leaves and others are surviving.

Teline monspessulana (Cape broom) Many plants have died. Most have shed leaves so that in some cases only a few leaves remain.

Blackberry Appear to be quite dead!

Pinus radiata In the Wattle Flat forest, there are many dead branches, but no dead trees were observed.

Pultenaea largiflorens (Bush pea) About 90% of the colony observed were dead.

NOTE: most of the observations were made on rises: in some areas the plants may be less affected.



## CLUB PROGRAMME

### MEETINGS

April Fri 8  
Bingos, Bruce Jacobs  
Thurs 28  
Committee meeting, 7.30

May Fri 13  
Bush Fires, David Barber.  
Thurs 26  
Committee Meeting

June Fri 10  
Some Aspects of Canada,  
Danita Brough, Rotary  
Exchange Student at C.H.S.  
Thurs 23  
Committee Meeting

July Fri 8  
Bird Slides and Tapes,  
Lill Flentje, Bendigo.

### EXCURSIONS

April Sat 9  
The 'Dingo Farm'

May 14  
Mt Franklin North

June Glaciated pavement.  
Eppalock.

July Waterwheel.  
Campbells Creek.



JACKY LIZARD

### From the Committee

#### \* Beautifying Campbells Creek.

The suggestion was made that the Field Naturalists do the area from Sherriffs Cottage to Tingays.

We now need a plan and Geoff Sitch will do it. Geoff will also tell us how to propagate; we can then grow local natives for planting.

\* Two superb new colour posters are now available, released by C.C.V. - Red Flowered Greenhood and Bush thick-knee (Bush Curlew). Cost is \$4-00 for two (plus \$1-50 postage) or individual posters are \$2-50 each (plus 1-00 postage).

From C.C.V. , 285-7 Lt Lonsdale St., Melbourne.

\* Widy Town Competition - A representative is needed for the City Council committee.

\* Frank Meyer has been ill.

\* Finance - \$68-79 in bank.